

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 14, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the U.S. patent to Fernandes.

Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Fernandes.

At the same time the Examiner indicated that claims 25-27, 30 and 34 are allowed, and claims 15-17, 19, 24, 28, 29 and 30 and 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In connection with the Examiner's rejection of the claims over the art, applicant canceled claims 14, 17, and 20-23 without prejudice.

The only claims 25-27, 30 and 34 have been retained as they were.

Claims 15, 16, 19 and 24 have been amended to include the features of the intervening claims and to make them independent. It is therefore

believed that claims 15, 16, 19, and 24 should be considered as being in allowable condition.

Claims 28-34 depend directly or indirectly on claim 24 and contain its allowable features.

It is believed that these claims should also be considered as being in allowable condition.

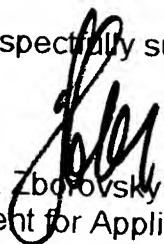
In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is believed that all the claims currently on file should be considered to be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-243-3818).



Respectfully submitted,


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Extension Request
Please extend the term
for response by 1
month and charge
to acc. 26.0085.

Y